

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04454 110321Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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-----066419 110858Z /15

R 101113Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8248
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04454

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, IR, KU
SUBJ: IRANIAN COMMENTS ON KUWAIT

1. DURING CALL ON MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD DAVOUDI MAY 10 BY
POLCOUNS WITH VISITING BAGHDAD EMBOFF MACK AND KUWAIT EMBOFF
BUCK, DISCUSSION TURNED TO EVENTS IN KUWAIT-IRAQ
RELATIONS.

2. DAVOUDI VOLUNTEERED THAT CABINET CHANGE CAN BE EXPECTED
IN KUWAIT THIS SUMMER OR BY OCTOBER AT THE LATEST. HE GAVE
NO SPECIAL REASON EXCEPT THAT PRESENT CABINET HAD BEEN HASTILY
PUT TOGETHER FOLLOWING DEATH OF LATE AMIR. WHILE SPECULATING
THAT IT MIGHT INVOLVE A PUSH FOR MORE MEMBERS OF RULING
SABAH FAMILY IN IT, DAVOUDI WAS NOT PRECISE. HE ALSO
SUGGESTED IN MORE TENTATIVE MANNER THAT NEW ASSEMBLY WOULD
HAVE TO BE CONVENED TO TAKE CARE OF PASSING OF NEW LAWS
ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION.

3. ON KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER DAVOUDI EXPRESSED PESSIMISM.
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04454 110321Z

HE THOUGHT KUWAIT WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST IRAQI DEMANDS
SUCH AS ON ISLANDS OF WARBA AND BUBYAN. THIS RESISTANCE
IS BASED ON HISTORY. GIVEN LONG RECORD OF IRAQI CLAIM TO
ALL OF KUWAIT, KUWAITIS FEEL THAT CONCESSION OF TERRITORY
WILL ONLY WHET IRAQI APPETITE. MEANWHILE, KUWAITIS CONTINUE
TO TURN BACK IRAQI REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION ON VARIETY OF
ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS WITH THE REQUEST THAT

BOUNDARY DIFFERENCES BE SETTLED FIRST.

4. IN REPLY TO BUCK'S QUESTION REGARDING KUWAIT-SAUDI
UNDEFINED OFFSHORE BOUNDARY LINE, DAVOUDI SAID HE WAS NOT
FAMILIAR WITH LEGAL DETAILS BUT KNEW OF NO POLITICAL PROBLEM
INVOLVING IRAN. IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED, KUWAIT CANNOT AFFORD
ANY PROBLEMS WITH IRAN, SINCE IT NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF IRAN
AND ALL THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AGAINST IRAQI
THREAT. IF IRAQ HAD NOT HISTORICALLY PUSHED THREATS TO SO
MANY OF THE AREA COUNTRIES, DAVOUDI COMMENTED, IT WOULD
PROBABLY BE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ARAB NATION IN THIS PART
OF THE WORLD.
SULLIVAN

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